

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00442 111154Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
SSC-01 /031 W

-----111157Z 003652 /21

R 110714Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 508
AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0442

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDIP, AF, IN
SUBJECT: NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN: S.K. SINGH

REF: KABUL 0049 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON INDIAN AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE TO KABUL, SHILENDRA KUMAR SINGH:
EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE KNOWN HIM IN RECENT YEARS HAVE
MIXED IMAGES OF "S.K.". HE CAN BE EITHER WARM AND FRIENDLY OR
CAUSTICALLY CRITICAL. EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT, HE IS PSYCHOLOGIC-
ALLY MOST COMPLEX: WITH AN EXTRA DRINK OR TWO SINGH HAS BEEN
KNOWN TO BEMOAN LUGUBRIOUSLY HIS LACK OF PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVE-
NESS AND TO QUESTION WHETHER HE HAS THE APPROPRIATE ATTRIBUTES
FOR A CAREER IN DIPLOMACY. HE IS EXCEEDINGLY AMBITIOUS--SOME
COLLEAGUES SAY RUTHLESS-- AND HE PURSUES RELENTLESSLY,
AND WITH CONSIDERABLE EFFECTIVENESS, THE PREVAILING MEA LINE
OF THE DAY. HIS SUPERIORS REPORTEDLY VALUE HIS TALENTS (RATHER
THAN LIKE HIM)

S.K. HAS HAD GOOD FRIENDSHIPS WITH MANY INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS BUT
HAS SOMETIMES BEEN HARSH IN HIS PRIVATE COMMENTS ON THE U.S.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00442 111154Z

SHORTLY AFTER THE CHARGE'S ARRIVAL AT POST IN 1973, HOWEVER,
S.K. PRIVATELY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING INDO-U.S.
RELATIONS. HE IS SHORT, PLUMP, AND BOUNCY IN MANNER. HE CAN BE
CHARMING, BUT CAN SHIFT SWIFTLY TO ABRASIVENESS. HE WAS MARRIED
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1974 TO A FORMER INDIAN COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR.
SHE WILL HAVE THEIR FIRST CHILD IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

2 SINGH WAS BORN JANUARY 24, 1932, AND HOLDS A MA LL.B. FROM AGRA UNIVERSITY. HE WAS ORIGINALLY APPOINTED TO THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1954, AND SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED TO TEHRAN, NEW YORK (UNITED NATIONS) AND, HIS LAST ASSIGNMENT, TO BEIRUT/ NICOSIA/AMMAN. HIS LANGUAGE SKILLS INCLUDE PERSIAN, HINDI, URDU, PUNJABI, AND SANSKRIT ASIDE FROM FLUENT ENGLISH.

3. COMMENT: IF S.K. HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO BE GENTLE, AGREEABLE, AND HELPFUL IN KABUL, HE WILL BE SO AND SHOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIAN INTERESTS. IF HE BELIEVES THAT INDIANS INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY A DIFFERENT POSTURE, THAT WILL BE THE FACE HE SHOWS. END COMMENT.

4. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED EVALUATION OF SINGH SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE00442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770010-0179
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770163/aaaaccyz.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c8152fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KABUL 49
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3625563
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN: S.K. SINGH
TAGS: PDIP, AF, IN, (SINGH, S K)
To: STATE KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c8152fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009